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ferrule having a slant polished first ferrule end and a second ferrule end, said ferrule being inserted and fixed in said second casing hole from said second casing end of said casing so that a given distance is defined between said first ferrule end of said ferrule and said lens and that said second ferrule end of said ferrule projects from said second casing end of said casing; and a sleeve having a first sleeve end fixed to said holder and a second sleeve end to which said first casing end of said casing is fixedly inserted and having a sleeve axis;

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said first end of said ferrule being positioned so that a portion of said first ferrule end of said ferrule radially farthest from said first casing hole axis of said first casing hole becomes axially farthest from said lens.

2. (Amended) A laser diode module according to claim 1, wherein the slant angle of said first ferrule end of said ferrule is set in the range of about 4° to about 8° with respect to a plane perpendicular to an axis of said ferrule.

3. (Amended) A laser diode module according to claim 1, wherein said casing further has a third casing hole for making communication of said first and second casing holes between said lens and said ferrule with the ambient air, and a pin for closing said third casing hole.

6. (Amended) A laser diode module, comprising:

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a laser diode assembly including a base, a carrier fixed to said base, a laser diode mounted on said carrier, a cap fixed to said base so as to surround said laser diode, and a holder fixed to said base so as to surround said cap and having a holder axis; and

a lens-fiber assembly including a casing having a first casing end, a second casing end, a first casing hole having a first casing hole diameter and a first casing hole axis, and a second casing hole having a second casing hole diameter smaller than said first casing hole diameter and a second casing hole axis offset from said first casing hole axis, said second casing hole communicating with said first casing hole, a lens inserted and fixed in said first casing hole from said first casing end of said casing, and a ferrule with an optical fiber embedded therein, said ferrule having a slant polished first ferrule end and a second ferrule end, said ferrule being inserted and fixed in said second casing hole from said second casing end of said casing so that a given distance is defined between said first ferrule end of said ferrule and said lens and that said second ferrule end of said ferrule projects from said second casing end of said casing; said first casing end of said casing being fixed to said holder;

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 said first ferrule end of said ferrule being positioned so that a portion of said first ferrule end of said ferrule radially farthest from said first casing hole axis of said first casing hole becomes axially farthest from said lens.

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 7. (Amended) A laser diode module according to claim 6, wherein the slant angle of said first ferrule end of said ferrule is set in the range of about 4° to about 8° with respect to plane perpendicular to an axis of said ferrule.

11. (Amended) A laser diode module, comprising:
 a laser diode; and
 a lens-fiber assembly including a casing having a first casing hole and a second casing hole offset from said first casing hole, a lens fixed in said first casing hole, and an optical fiber provided in said second casing hole, said lens-fiber assembly guiding a laser beam emitted from said laser diode through said lens to said optical fiber;
 said optical fiber being inserted and fixed in a ferrule press-fitted with said second casing hole.

12. (Amended) A laser diode module according to claim 11, wherein:
 said ferrule has a first ferrule end inserted in said second casing hole and a second ferrule end projecting from said second casing hole, said first ferrule end of said ferrule being inclined a given angle with respect to an axial direction of said ferrule; and
 one of the outer circumferential surface of said ferrule and a wall surface of said casing defining said second casing hole is formed with an axially extending guide rail, and the other is formed with an axially extending groove adapted to engage said guide rail.

13. (Amended) A laser diode module according to claim 11, wherein said casing further has a third casing hole for making communication of said first and second casing holes between said lens and said ferrule with the ambient air.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 23, 2002, the Examiner noted that claims 1-14 were pending, that claims 4-5, 8-10 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration, and rejected claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 11-13. Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 11-13 have been amended, and, thus, in view